

Application No. 10/032,979
Amendment Dated: October 31, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 9, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1-23. (cancelled)
24. (new) A network server configured to facilitate communication among a plurality of endpoints, the server comprising:
- a gatekeeper configured to implement one or more network policies set by a network administrator, wherein the network policies include one or more items selected from the group consisting of: call authorization, call management, network bandwidth management; and
 - a resource scheduler configured to perform at least two activities selected from the group consisting of: interacting with the calendars of others on the network, sending conference invitations to others on the network, and updating participant calendars upon acceptance of an invitation.
25. (new) The network server of claim 24 further comprising:
- a gateway operative to provide interface functionality between different network types.
26. (new) The network server of claim 24 wherein the network policies implemented by the gatekeeper vary as a function of time of day or day of week.

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27. (new) A method of scheduling a conference call within a network, the method comprising:
- receiving a request for a conference call from a requestor;
 - determining whether the requested conference call may be completed based on one or more network policies and based on availability of one or more invitees determined from the one or more invitees' calendar; and
 - if the requested conference call may be completed based on the one or more network policies and availability of one or more invitees, scheduling the requested conference call and performing one or more of: transmitting invitations to conference invitees and updating the calendar of the one or more invitees.
28. (new) The method of claim 27 further comprising:
- if the requested conference call may not be completed based on the one or more network policies or availability of one or more invitees, notifying the requestor that the conference call may not be completed.
29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein the step of notifying the requestor that the conference call may not be completed further comprises proposing at least one alternate conference time at which the requested conference call may be completed based on the one or more network policies and the availability of one or more invitees.
30. (new) The method of claim 27 further comprising rejecting any competing ad hoc conference calls that conflict with a scheduled conference call.
31. (new) The method of claim 30 further comprising notifying participants in an ad hoc conference call that availability of network resources used by the ad hoc conference call will expire shortly prior to initiation of the scheduled conference call.
32. (new) The method of claim 28 further comprising rejecting any competing ad hoc conference calls that conflict with a scheduled conference call.

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33. (new) The method of claim 32 further comprising notifying participants in an ad hoc conference call that availability of network resources used by the ad hoc conference call will expire shortly prior to initiation of the scheduled conference call.
34. (new) The method of claim 29 further comprising rejecting any competing ad hoc conference calls that conflict with a scheduled conference call.
35. (new) The method of claim 34 further comprising notifying participants in an ad hoc conference call that availability of network resources used by the ad hoc conference call will expire shortly prior to initiation of the scheduled conference call.